

Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 32

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1981

NUMBER 7



SEC General Synod delegates [l-r]: Dr. Emmett Floyd, Mrs. Freda Brown, Rev. Marvin Morgan, Ms. Beth Green.

UCC Women To Hold Southern Regional Meeting

Over two hundred United Church of Christ women from states throughout the south will participate in the Southern Regional Meeting to be held at the DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, Tennessee, Friday through Sunday, October 16-18. The theme for the meeting is "Women of Faith: One Spirit - Varied Gifts." Dr. Yvonne Delk of the Office for Church in Society is the keynote speaker.

The program will include worship, Bible study, workshops, and periods for discussion and sharing. Friday's session will focus on "naming our gifts," Saturday's on "developing our gifts," and Sunday's on "sharing our gifts." Two of the workshops will be "Family and Changing Lifestyles" and "Peace and Public Policy," dealing with issues of family and peace, concerns given top priority for the UCC at the General Synod meeting held this past summer in Rochester, N.Y.

Other workshops will be on the subjects of "Jesus According to Women," "Creative Worship," "Women and Men," "Assertiveness Training," "Burn Out Syndrome," "Program Resources," "Shop Talk," "Women and the Media," "Women's Global Concerns," "Spiritual Growth," and "Learning To Live with Less."

The other leaders for the meeting will be: Marilyn Breitling, Gretchen Eick, Dr. Nanette Roberts, and Rev. Susan Savell, all of the UCC Women's Inter-Staff Team, and Rev. Joyce B. Myers and Dorothy

Association Meetings Scheduled

The five Associations encompassed by the Southeast Conference will be holding their annual meetings throughout the fall. The schedule for Annual Meetings will be as follows:

—Alabama-Tennessee Association; Annual Meeting; Friday-Saturday, September 18-19; Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, Birmingham, AL.

—North Alabama Association; Annual Meeting; Saturday, October 3 beginning at 9:00 a.m.; Union Grove Congregational Church, Haleyville, AL.

—South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association; Annual Meeting; Saturday, October 10 beginning at 9:30 a.m.; Antioch Congregational Church, Andalusia, AL.

—East Alabama Association; Annual Meeting; Saturday, October 24 beginning at 9:30 a.m.; Pleasant Grove Congregational Christian Church, LaFayette, AL.

—Georgia-South Carolina Association; Annual Meeting; Friday-Saturday, October 30-31; Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC, Charleston, S.C.

NIN Offering Date October 4

October 4 is the suggested date for the 1981 special all-church Neighbors In Need Offering.

Proceeds from the NIN offering will be used to provide financial support for special programming in needed areas of ministry. Allocation of proceeds from NIN are planned as follows:

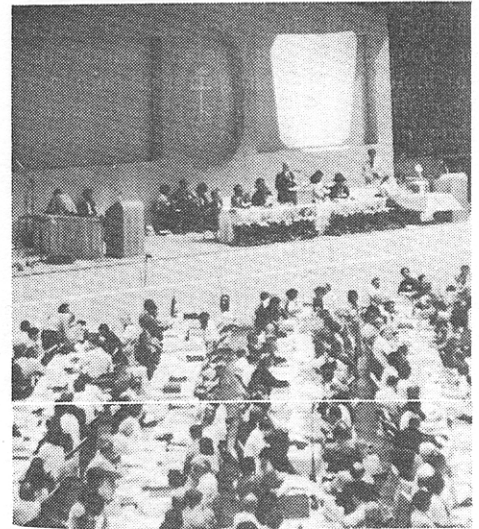
—\$100,000 to the Office for Church in Society for "Economic Justice for Poor Women."

—\$100,000 to the Commission for Racial

[Continued on Page 2]

Robinson, both of the UCC Office for Church Life and Leadership, Southern Region. Special guests will be Matilda Dunn, of Liberia, Yosmeen Mohiuddin, of Pakistan, and Mary Craighill, of Taiwan.

Women of the First United Church of Christ, Belvidere, TN, will serve as hostesses.



GENERAL SYNOD XIII

General Synod Makes Peace, Family Life Priorities

Peace and Family Life were the two priorities selected by the 704 delegates to General Synod XIII, which met in Rochester, N.Y. June 27-July 1, 1981.

Calling for the church to approach both priorities in study and in action, the General Synod affirmed "the Biblical and theological role of the church and its members as peacemakers" and recognized that "all persons, regardless of their family patterns, be affirmed and supported in the life of the church, manifesting our unity as a family in Christ."

A high point of the Synod was the unanimous vote to join in full communion with the East-West German Evangelical Church of the Union. Commenting on the vote, UCC President Avery Post, who was selected to a second term of office, stated that "the commitment to ecumenism is a major destiny issue for our beloved church."

In other action, women's rights and racial justice were the focus of Synod action. In addition to a ringing endorsement of UCC support for the Equal Rights Amendment, delegates also adopted a resolution declaring their commitment to affirmative action within the UCC. Reflecting on Ku Klux Klan intimidation and

[Continued on Page 2]

CONFERENCE CORNER

This has been a busy summer for many of us but I hope a pleasant one for all of us. Our own annual meeting in LaGrange in June, the meeting of General Synod in Rochester, N.Y., in late June and early July along with a week at the beach for our family in August — all of these remind me of the rhythm and flow of life's activities.



My evaluation of both our Conference meeting and General Synod is that they were good "family" meetings without any sharp focus or controversy. As a conference and as a church we appear to be in solid if not exciting shape. I believe the foundation has been well laid for renewed energy and growth. There is so much more that could and should be done. I am encouraged by the depth of devotion and service I find among our people and churches.

Many of our congregations are small and have problems of leadership and adequate program. But I believe these are capable of being met by the dedication of the members of our churches and the increased resources we can all make available through better stewardship of our talents and money.

My goal for myself and our churches is that we will grow so much spiritually that we can "play as good as a game as we talk." Our church strives to serve the causes of righteousness and faith. We try to be sensitive to the demands of the Gospel and the needs of people. But we need to match our understanding with our commitment so that the Kingdom of God may truly come in our lives and in our world. May God help us to move forward with vision and dedication.

Pardon Our Lateness

The August-September and the October issues of the Southeast News are regrettably — but quite unavoidably — late in reaching the printing presses. We ask your pardon for our lateness in producing these two issues and are hopeful that circumstances will not force a recurrence of this situation.

STEPHEN C. GRAY
Editor

Impressions of General Synod XIII

General Synod XIII was a meeting with a diversity of people and of interests. But in the midst of this diversity one sensed a unity — a unity made possible only by Christian fellowship. There was great joy in meeting people from places around the world where for generations our missionaries have served. Sharing with these partners in Christian mission was an inspiration as we returned to work in our local churches.

Attending Synod always brings the pleasure of seeing friends of former years and parishes. There is a sense of "family reunion" which warms the heart.

The schedule of Synod was demanding! Worship began at 6:45 a.m. and meetings started at 8:30 a.m. and continued until 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. At times there were meetings held at all three meals and also at late-night gatherings. The displays of the instrumentalities and interest groups were eye-catching and informative, but there was never enough time to visit them all. Serious work was done by delegates as they shared in preparation for presenting matters to be considered by the entire Synod.

The worship service, led by Rev. Ann Asper Wilson, was especially meaningful. It was obvious that much time, thought and effort had gone into the preparation for our gathering in the huge building which accommodated thousands.

I was impressed by a continuing concern expressed daily for justice — justice for the handicapped, for minorities, for human rights, for the oppressed. There was a sense of a people striving to respond to human need as the Bible tells us Jesus Christ so clearly instructed us to do. The priorities chosen — Peace and Family Life — reflected our joint concern with what the Savior wants us to be about in our world today.

It was a real privilege to be part of this General Synod of the United Church of Christ along with the others attending from the Southeast Conference.

FREDA BROWN
Delegate

NIN Continued

Justice for "Responsible Support of the Black Family."

—\$100,000 to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for Aid to Children of Want."

—\$150,000 to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for "Rights for the Handicapped."

—\$200,000 or 1/3 of the offering (whichever is larger) to the Council for American Indian Ministry for "Ministries for American Indians."



SEC General Synod delegates [l-r]: Mr. Mark Frey, Rev. Hank Tuttle, Ms. Mary Marshall, Mr. Marlbro Roberts.

Women's Task Force Becomes Commission

Action was taken at the 1981 Southeast Conference Annual Meeting changing the Women's Task Force to the Commission on Women in Church and Society.

Recommended by the Conference Board of Directors, this increases the number of conference commissions to four. A revision of the By-Laws will be presented at the next annual meeting of the Conference.

In addition to Co-Chairwomen Betty Greene and Carol Jean Delcher, Commission on Women in Church and Society members include June Bell, Louise Cox, Franklin Thomas, Phemie Young, Glynnis Hughes, Trudy Braun, Mary Marshall, Patricia McJunkins and Patty Voelker.

General Synod Continued

terrorism, the Synod called for increased support of racial justice as well as retention of the Voting Rights Act.

Throughout the Synod, the role of disabled persons was stressed. From architectural modifications in the Rochester War Memorial Auditorium where the Synod met, to leadership by handicapped persons, the full participation of the handicapped in the life of the United Church was affirmed.

Looking to the future, the Synod adopted a budget of \$12 million for 1982 and \$12.5 million for 1983 to support the work of the denomination's national bodies.

Thinking the Unthinkable

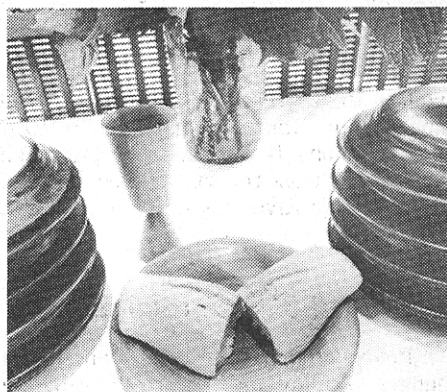
"Thinking the Unthinkable!" We seem to be doing that now — and that worries me. For years the world turned away from weapons, used in WWI, almost as dreadful in their way as the atomic bomb. I mean the use of poison gas and chemical warfare. Now, we are producing such weapons in my home state of Arkansas. Secondly, whatever reasons may be given for its value, I am concerned that the production of the neutron bomb takes us one step closer to the use of "tactical" nuclear weapons, as though the use of any might not lead to the use of them all.

So long as the world turns away from the use of these terrible weapons for anything other than mad bargaining chips, so long we may have faith that we will "muddle through." But it is a fearful thing to see us balancing like dare devil children on the ledge.

DR. DAVID BEEBE

Correction Noted

The June, 1981 issue of the *Southeast News* reported that Dr. Yvonne Delk was the first woman to head a program agency of the UCC. This was incorrect. While Dr. Delk is the first **black** woman to head a UCC program agency, the first **woman** in that capacity was Dr. Helen Huntington Smith who headed the Council for Lay Life and Work from 1961-67. Thanks to Rev. Robert Peters, Pleasant Hill, TN for the correction.



World Wide Communion Sunday was celebrated on October 4.



President Ronald Reagan greets Rev. Harold Wilke.

Rural America Conference to be Held

A Southeast Regional Conference on Rural America, Life and Issues, will be held October 15-17 at Franklinton Center in Enfield, North Carolina. Sponsored by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the conference will focus on issues ranging from loss of farmlands and family farms to the rural church and the problem of leadership.

Cost of the conference is \$15. Any interested member of a Southeast Conference church is invited to attend.

Representing the Southeast Conference in the planning for the meeting was Rev. John Schaeffer, pastor of First United Church, Belvidere, TN. For further information about attending the conference, please contact Rev. Schaeffer by writing: Route 2, Box 167, Belvidere, TN 37306.

Workshop for Family Ministries Offered

Elon Home for Children is sponsoring a workshop for church leaders entitled "Strategies for Family Ministries." To be held October 19-21 at The Conference Center, Browns Summit, N.C., the workshop will be led by Robert Stogner, Director of Family and Community Services at Elon. For further information write: Family and Community Services,

Reagan Pledges Support to Disabled

"Thirty-five million disabled Americans are our most under-utilized national resource," said President Ronald Reagan earlier this year as he pledged U.S. participation in the International Year of Disabled Persons. The Rev. Harold Wilke, a United Church of Christ minister who is a member of the U.S. Council for the International Year of Disabled Persons, assured the President of the participation of religious groups in implementing the aims of the International Year.

Dr. Wilke, born without arms yet totally independent, was recently honored with the award of the first "Global Citizen Medal" by the United Church Board for World Ministries at the 13th General Synod of the UCC.

Dr. Wilke was honored for his rehabilitation work with handicapped persons in 40 countries around the world.

Dr. Wilke is the director of The Healing Community, a resource center in White Plains, NY, which ministers to the churches in facilitating the integration of handicapped persons into the mainstream of religious and community life.

Elon Home for Children, PO Box 157, Elon College, N.C. 27244.

Women In Church To Be Highlighted

Ways women work within the church will be highlighted in the next issue of **Common Lot**, the quarterly newsletter published by the United Church of Christ Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

This newsletter is aimed at helping women's church groups to share with each other their own program ideas and to make use of resources available from agencies of the UCC. A listing of resources related to women's concerns will be given in the next **Common Lot**, and examples of women's groups already engaged in interesting and challenging programs will be featured.

To receive a free copy of the next issue of **Common Lot**, to receive information on bulk quantities, or to have your name put on the mailing list, write:

Ms. Patricia K. Miller
Coordinating Center for Women, UCC
105 Madison Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10016

Film on Wilmington 10 Case Available

In 1972 ten young people became victims of the criminal justice system of North Carolina. It took 10 years of faithful, unrelenting commitment and work by the United Church of Christ to vindicate their rights. The United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice has produced a videotape on the case of the Wilmington 10 entitled "A Trial of Errors."

The tape chronicles the role played by the United Church of Christ and the 10 year struggle to free these innocent young people in what has become a precedent setting case. This videotape is available for use from the Commission for Racial Justice, Department of Research, Information and Education, 105 Madison Avenue, Suite 1112, NY, NY 10016.

There is no charge to churches and conference. However, any contribution will be appreciated.

New Audio Visual Materials Available

The following audio visual materials are now available and may be borrowed from the Southeast Conference, PO Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359:

Zimbabwe, a sound filmstrip

From Brokenness to Wholeness: A Vision of Christian Education, filmstrip, cassette, use guide.



Martin Kruse (l) and Joachim Rogge (r) from the German Evangelical Church of the Union accept a chalice from the UCC.

UCC Joins German Church in Full Communion

Covenant conversations begun in 1975 finally reached fruition on June 30th when the 13th General Synod of our United Church of Christ unanimously voted to join in full Christian communion with the East-West German Evangelical Church of the Union (E.K.U.).

The two denominations exchanged chalices and communion plates at Rochester, NY, during the General Synod in an expression of their acceptance of each other and of their communion with one another.

"The full communion acknowledges the common calling, ministry and purpose of the two Churches," said the Rev. Frederick R. Trost, Wisconsin Conference Minister and secretary of the UCC group working with the E.K.U. The two denominations are "prepared to work, sacrifice and serve Jesus Christ together," Rev. Trost said. "This event promises that, from here on, we are partners in mission and faith."

The action by the Synod is in response to a unanimous vote by the E.K.U. that invited full communion with the UCC.

UCC Membership Map Available

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries now has available for purchase a multi-colored map showing UCC membership for each county in the United States. Valuable for use with confirmation or new member orientation classes, the map may be ordered for \$3.00 by writing to: UCBHM, 132 West 31 Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

World Food Day Scheduled

The first World Food Day will be October 16, 1981, the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The 147 member-nations of FAO established this day in order to alert public opinion to the gravity of the world's food situation.

Consider the facts:

—More than 500 million people in the world today suffer from severe under-nutrition — hunger.

—Children are the worst afflicted. Millions die each year from hunger-related illness and disease. Others, because of vitamin and protein deficiency, suffer stunted physical and mental development, sometimes even blindness.

—More than 100 countries, most of them in the developing world, are in "food deficit," meaning that their people consume more food than they produce.

FAO is asking that everyone sharing the belief that food is a basic human right find some way to participate in a World Food Day observance.

Mission Benevolence Policy Reminder

Paul R. Gregory, Pacific Regional Secretary of the United Church Board for World Ministries, reminds UCC congregations that there is a definite policy concerning mission benevolence appeals. In brief, individual mission endeavors that relate to the United Church have agreed not to make individual appeals to member congregations of the United Church of Christ. Instead, mission projects are funded through funds received either through OCWM, One Great Hour of Sharing or funds pooled with those of other denominations.

Occasionally individual mission efforts violate this agreement and make direct appeals for financial support to UCC congregations. If you should receive such an appeal, please report it immediately to: UCBWM, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.

Eradicating Hunger

"Poverty goes hand in hand with hunger...A truly major effort to eradicate hunger, with its human degradation and despair...is a political imperative for building world cooperation and solidarity among all peoples and all nations." — from The Report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues.

TEACHER'S CREED

Although I have all the Elmer's glue and scissors, and have read the lesson five times, and have not love, I am not a teacher. And though I have all the construction paper, glitter and Bible posters, puzzles and unit activities, and have been in a special planning session, and have not love, I am not a teacher. For being a teacher is more than being present, prompt, Bible brought, and lesson prepared. It's even more than faithfully attending the Church services.

A teacher looks neat and is not easily provoked when something is wrong with the heating or cooling system. A teacher is not envious, not for his/her name to be praised, but works for the glory of God.

They bear the problems, believe and hope for the best for all the children they teach, for a teacher's work is in vain unless he/she has true interest in the children.

Where there be magic markers — they shall dry up. Where there be chalk and blackboards — they shall crumble. Where there be printed literature — it shall fade.

But a right relationship to God will endure forever as it is shared in the lives of your children.

All work is a result of His love. And now abideth planning, preparation and love — these three, but the greatest of these is love. For without God's love all work is for naught.

— Lanett UCC Newsletter

The Southeast News

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

Publication Number 504480

Published monthly October and
November; February to July, inclusive;
bi-monthly August-September and
December-January, by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
The United Church of Christ

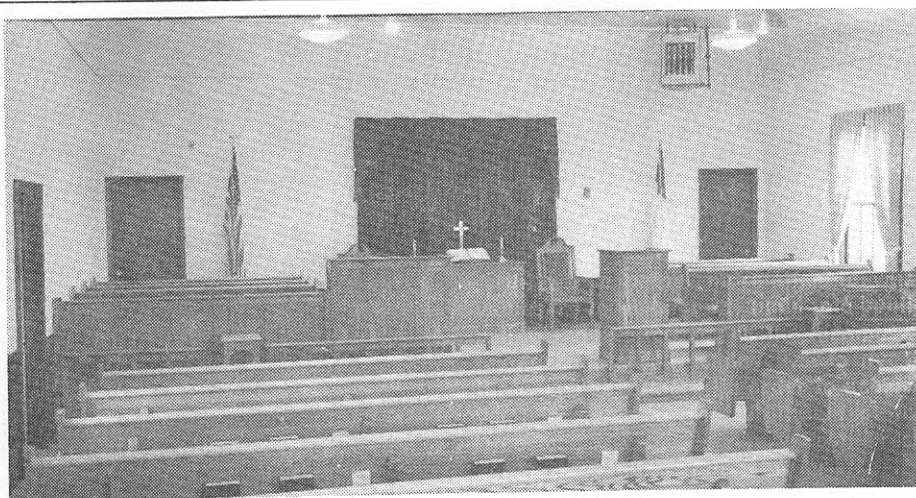
2676 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30329
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$2.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 32 August-September, 1981 No. 7

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
P.O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30359



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, PHENIX CITY, AL

Around The Conference

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the East Alabama Association is First Congregational Christian Church, UCC in Phenix City, AL. Begun in 1920 as part of the Christian denomination, the church today has an active membership of 156 with 88 enrolled in Church School.

After a recent planning session, the church discarded the idea of moving its plant in favor of future expansion on its present site. In response, additional land was purchased to increase parking facilities

and the parsonage was remodeled and central heat and air installed.

In addition to fellowship programs and a newly formed puppet ministry, the members of First Church are very proud of the church choir, which has shared two musicals with other churches in the area.

With a strong and active Women's Fellowship and Men's Fellowship, the church is involved in prison ministry through Prison Fellowship. Other forms of ministry have been in terms of educational programs outlining the services of legal aid, social security, veterans' benefits and a forum discussion concerning death and the cost of dying.

First Church is also proud of its young people through such organizations as a recently formed Girl Scout Troop and a Boy Scout Troop that has taken first place at the Scout-O-Rama for the past 11 years.

Having previously served the church from 1966-1974, Pastor John Rhodes was recalled and has served the church since 1976.

Question of Values

"In whose name, in relation to what values, have we begun to build into public policy and public budgets the formula of taking from those who have less to give to those who have more, in order to achieve what is touted as the fulfillment of the American dream?" — Avery Post, President of the United Church of Christ.



A bus ministry is part of the program of First Church, Phenix City, AL

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

The congregation of First Evangelical & Reformed Church, UCC, in Nashville, TN, recently purchased a 15 passenger van to be used for regular Sunday transportation and youth retreats. Funds for the van were raised over a 2 year period by the church's youth.

Some 75 young people and adult advisors were in attendance at the South Alabama Association Youth Rally which was held on August 29 at Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, UCC, in Pine Mountain, GA.

Prior to their summer trip to Denmark, Dr. David Beebe, his wife Judy and their two children were surprised by a Bon Voyage party given by the congregation of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, Chattanooga, TN, where Dr. Beebe is pastor.

The congregation of Belvidere United Church of Christ is at it again! Once again they have set a record for giving. This time the recipient was Elon Home for Children, the benevolence offering of which totaled \$1,048.23.

Rev. George Fidler and his wife recently enjoyed a visit to Europe, a portion of which was provided by the congregation of St. John's UCC in Cullman, AL, where Rev. Fidler serves as pastor.

Ralph and Louise Galt were recent guest speakers at Central United Church of Christ, Atlanta, GA. The Galts are currently on leave from Taiwan, where they are serving as UCC missionaries.

A feature article in a recent edition of

Belvidere Celebrates Homecoming

Beautiful weather encouraged a good attendance for Homecoming Sunday celebrated at First UCC, Belvidere, TN on August 9, 1981. Some 166 persons, including former members and friends of the congregation, participated in morning worship. The Rev. Calton G. Kruegar, a former pastor who served from 1952 to 1957 and is now pastor of First UCC, Toledo, OH, preached the sermon. A dedication of the newly upholstered pews was part of the service. The Children's Choir and the Senior Choir provided special music.

After worship 190 people enjoyed a fellowship dinner held outside under the church's shady tulip trees. Most remained for the special afternoon program which featured selections by the choirs, congregational singing, a reminiscence by the Rev. Mr. Krueger, and a report about former pastors and their families by Mr. John Fandrich, Sr.

the Atlanta Journal concerned the ministry of Pilgrimage UCC, a new church start of the Southeast Conference, located in Marietta, GA.

Fairfield Glade Community Church, Fairfield Glade, TN, reserved their August 16 Fellowship Night as a special time of appreciation for Rev. Marion Mansell and his wife, Lillie Mae. The founding pastor of this new church start, Rev. Mansell will be retiring in September.

Mrs. Louise Cox, a professor at Southern Union College and Moderator of the East Alabama Association, recently told her students about the work of Habitat for Humanity and their program to gather used eyeglasses to be sent to Zaire. Over a period of several weeks the students collected more than a thousand pairs of eyeglasses which were delivered to the Habitat for Humanity offices by Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference. The eyeglasses will be sold at a nominal cost to persons in Zaire, thus providing better sight for a thousand people.



Boy at Yoro Vocational Training Center

Yoro: Partners In Mission

The United Church of Christ is a partner with the Association of Evangelical Institutions in Honduras. A vocational training center in Yoro provides courses in woodcarving, metal work, carpentry, and pottery. One of the most exciting projects being undertaken is the production of a simple tractor for use by local farmers.

Work at Yoro is seen in a new filmstrip, *Witness in the Americas*. The filmstrip shows what churches in Latin America are like and tells much about the outreach work of these churches and their institutions with whom we work as partners in mission.

The filmstrip illustrates both traditional, long-standing work that UCC predecessor denominations were engaged in and new ministries — interdenominational and international — in which we are engaged.

Witness in the Americas, a 15-minute color filmstrip with cassette, produced by the Stewardship Council in cooperation with the United Church Board for World Ministries, is available for \$15.00 from the Stewardship Council Distribution Service, Room 618, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

P. O. Box 29883

Atlanta, Georgia 30359

REV H WAYNE PECK
1711 ANTIGUA DR
ORLANDO FL 32806

Second Class Postage Paid
at Atlanta, Ga.